



DOUGLAS COUPLAND EXCLUSIVE: 'A NEW FORM OF STORYTELLING IS BEING CALLED FOR'

PAGE 12

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Weekend, November 1-3, 2013 | www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

Up-and-comers. Hailee Steinfeld, left, talks about how working on "Ender's Game" with Asa Butterfield, right, was like being in boot camp.
Sci-fi spectacular. The classic novel comes to the screen with enough of its intelligence intact.

PAGES 13-14

KIDS IN SPACE

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NEWS

Top 3

**Trending
online at
Metro.us**

1 'Man uses Face-
book to find wife,
kids in protective
custody'

2 'YouTube mortu-
ician talks 'death
acceptance''

3 'Women bare
breasts at Lincoln
Center to celebrate
Halloween, topless
freedom'

Quoted

"For years, Staten Island's businesses and cultural institutions have been asking our elected officials for a way to get the millions of visitors who ride the Staten Island Ferry out of the terminal and onto Staten Island. This project will meet that long-awaited goal."

Councilwoman Debi Rose after City Council approved a Staten Island outlet mall and Ferris Wheel



New Yorkers flocked to visit the various artworks that the British artist placed throughout the city. / GETTY IMAGES

Banksy 'residency' comes to artsy end

All good things.

The elusive artist kept NYC on edge with his daily pieces of street art.

Banksy's monthlong stay in New York City came to an appropriately cheeky end on Thursday.

The elusive street artist left his name in bubble letters above the tags of several local graffiti artists on a building in Queens, off the Long Island Expressway. The letters look spray-painted, the same as the tags below it, but were actually inflated balloons.

"I'd like to say we're going out on a high note," a recording on Banksy's website said.

The balloons were taken down within hours.

The full recorded mes-

sage on the final post on his website rhapsodized about the value of art being placed out in the open.

"Outside is where art should live, amongst us," the recording said. "Don't we want to live in a world made of art, not just decorated by it?"

While many New Yorkers flocked to see each

of his installations, local graffiti artists seemed less enamored of the street artist's work.

Most, if not all, of Banksy's pieces around the city were painted over or otherwise damaged. His miniature twin towers in TriBeCa, which were quickly covered with plexiglass, have even been scrawled over.

One piece will remain, however: a painting that Banksy hijacked from Housing Works in Chelsea. The artist painted a Nazi soldier into the painting.

The Banksy-modified painting sold at auction for \$615,000.

Several commenters on Banksy's Instagram noted that they were pleased that the profits from this piece were going to a good cause: Housing Works provides housing and health services for homeless New Yorkers living with AIDS.

On one of his last Instagram posts, Banksy thanked New Yorkers for their "patience" and said "it's been fun."

"Save 5pointz. Bye," he added.



DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

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Artistic October

The British street artist Banksy has posted a piece of art a day in New York City throughout the month of October.

- The "residency," which lasted a month, was called "Better Out Than In."
- He unveiled the pieces on his site www.banksyny.com.

banksyny.com.

- The one day that he didn't put any art in the city he said that it was because the New York police were trying to catch him.
- For locations of Banksy's art around NYC, see Metro's interactive map at Metro.us.

Big money

How much is a street Banksy worth?

Banksy started "Pest Control" to crack down on people selling works that they said were his. The service verifies the works and then authenticates them. They don't verify street pieces though, so major auction houses won't sell them.

Some art galleries and smaller auction houses will sell the pieces and at least one dealer suggested that the green door that Banksy painted in Greenpoint could fetch up to \$40,000.



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LifeWear

Rally. Advocates to call for puppy mill regulation Friday

The state has prohibited local governments from regulating pet dealers in New York since 2002, but advocates are hoping new legislation will change that.

Without local help, there's been an increase in illegal breeders, said Bill Ketzer, senior state director of ASPCA government relations in the northeast.

A bill sponsored by Upper West Side Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal

and a Buffalo senator would return control to locals.

"By doing so, they can pass laws that would crack down on puppy mills," she said.

Rosenthal will rally at City Hall Friday to ask Gov. Andrew Cuomo to sign the legislation, which has passed both the Assembly and Senate. He will review the bill when it reaches his desk, his office said.

ANNA SANDERS

Leafy life

Tree giveaway hits Bed-Stuy

A hundred trees will be given away in Brooklyn Saturday as part of an initiative to plant 1 million trees throughout the city by 2017.

MillionTreesNYC,

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation and the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford Stuyvesant, will hand out trees at the Restoration Plaza Amphitheater, 1368 Fulton St., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ANNA SANDERS

Court suspends NYC's stop-and-frisk ruling



The ruling ensures that stop-and-frisk continues through the appeals process. / GETTY IMAGES

Hitting the brakes.

The court removed the judge who ruled the practice was unconstitutional.

The three-judge Court of Appeals panel that heard the city's motion to stay the federal stop-and-frisk ruling on Tuesday handed down an order Thursday granting the city's request.

They also removed Judge Shira Scheindlin from both stop-and-frisk cases being considered.

In their order, the Second Circuit judges said

Scheindlin "ran afoul of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges."

The judges seemed to take issue in particular with "a series of media interviews and public statements" that the judge gave.

The judges' order stays both Scheindlin's ruling — deeming the way the NYPD conducts stop-and-frisk unconstitutional — and the remedies she suggested, such as a federal stop-and-frisk monitor.

The stop-and-frisk cases will now be assigned to a new district judge.



DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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The frontrunner's take

"I'm extremely disappointed in today's decision. We shouldn't have to wait for reforms that both keep our communities safe and obey the Constitution."

Bill de Blasio

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Tony's Metro Magic brings holiday cheer to kids in need

Annual collection.

Metro is calling on readers to make the season brighter.

Loyal Metro readers will be familiar with our annual toy drive for underprivileged children, Metro Magic, which is helmed by our staff in New York, Philadelphia and Boston. But what you might not know is that the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor-in-chief, passed away this July from colon cancer. He was only 50 years old.

The toy drive, which is done in conjunction with Toys for Tots and the U.S. Marines, was by far Metcalf's favorite Metro initiative. As a former co-worker put it, Metro Magic and the joy it brought to children



In the last four years, Metro readers have donated well over a \$100,000 worth of toys to hundreds of local children. / METRO FILE PHOTO

Let us know!

If you donate, email us at charity@metro.us letting us know what you gave and we'll shout out a "thank you" in the paper.



made him "the happiest I've ever seen him ... even happier than he was at Yankee Stadium." (Boston and Philly readers, please don't hold that against him.)

Metro will continue the toy drive this year, but in honor of our beloved colleague, we're renaming it Tony's Metro Magic.

So starting today, and

What to give?

What to contribute

Metro is collecting new, unwrapped gifts, not clothes. Things like action figures, dolls, board games and sports toys like a football are always good. And don't forget about older children,

ages 11 and up. An older child would love to receive an MP3 player, a makeup kit or a poster from her favorite "Twilight" movie this year. And you don't have to give much. Spending \$10 or \$20 on a toy or two can make a needy child's holiday wish come true.

A good cause

In addition to Toys for Tots, Metro New York teams up with The Partnership for the Homeless, an organization that, in part, helps find housing for homeless families and children — now composing the largest segment of the city's homeless population.

- "Metro has helped us

spread holiday cheer to all of the tiny little faces for a few years now," said Ed Snowden, a volunteer coordinator for The Partnership for the Homeless. "We are truly grateful to Metro and its kind and generous readers. On behalf of our lovely children, we thank you!"

How to take part

- 1 Look for the Tony's Metro Magic logo on our website, Metro.us.
- 2 One click on the logo will take you to a "Wish List" we have set up via a secure link on Toysrus.com.
- 3 Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested for kids, and more are being added daily. Simply select the toys you want and purchase them. That's it! Selecting only the toys on our Wish List ensures that all the gifts will be shipped to our offices.

all through November and December both in print and online at www.metro.us. We will remind readers to donate — keep an eye out for the Tony's Metro Magic logo daily.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open under the Christmas tree. One gift can make a big difference. **METRO**



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Kate Stamas and Evan Stark serve up food at Hometown Bar-B-Que in Red Hook. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Eateries in Red Hook on the rebound

Anniversary.

When superstorm Sandy waylaid Red Hook, some new restaurants dug in and decided to stay in the community.

Special place

Despite the threat of flooding, the growing artisanal community of glassblowers, pie makers and craft bars lure entrepreneurs to the area. Steve Mierisch considered spaces in Williamsburg, Bushwick and DUMBO, but chose Red

Hook for the existing network of small businesses.

- "It's a good vibe in the neighborhood," he said. "It's like going to a small town upstate and you're only five minutes from the city."

Tough residents

"There's a special breed of human being that comes to Red Hook to open a business."

Billy Durney

It's Thursday — typically a slow day for restaurants — but nearly every table in Billy Durney's 4,500-square-foot barbecue hall Hometown is packed. Even 1.5 miles from the nearest subway, New Yorkers seem drawn to Durney.

That's because after superstorm Sandy hit his Red Hook restaurant two months into its build-out, Durney smoked nearly 4,000 pounds of donated meat and fed his neighbors for 16 days.

"I fell hook, line and sinker for every single person in this community," Durney said.

The storm, for better or worse, forced the handful of food businesses that signed leases in Red Hook just before Sandy to become invested in the neighborhood.

Many establishments lost as much as \$100,000

because the flood damaged essential kitchen appliances and food inventory. But leaving Red Hook was not an option for these restaurants given their financial investment in their space.

According to Monica Byrne, a co-founder of Restore Red Hook and a local business owner, most developments in the seaside neighborhood are less than 10 years old and the owners personally financed their ventures.

"These are not Whar-

ton School of Business plans, but they're going to put their hearts and souls into it," she said.

Steve Mierisch, owner of a coffee-roasting incubator called Pulley Collective, signed his lease three weeks before the storm. He lost about 30 bags of green coffee beans and a roaster — much less than his neighbors at Mile End Delicatessen and Red Hook Winery — but damages to the building caused a five-month delay in opening his roasting business.

Durney wasn't so fortunate. He lost nearly \$50,000 of kitchen and construction equipment in 5.5 feet of water.

"Anything can happen when you're this close to the ocean," he said.

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Watchdog group: Syria has destroyed weapon facilities



U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday. / GETTY IMAGES

Chemical weapons.

The country had until Nov. 1 to meet the deadline that was imposed.

Syria has destroyed or rendered inoperable all of its declared chemical weapons production and mixing facilities, meeting a major deadline in an ambitious disarmament program, the international chemical weapons watchdog said Thursday.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which won the Nobel Peace prize this month, said its teams had inspected 21 out of 23 chemical weapons sites across the country. The remaining two were too dangerous to reach for inspection but the chemical equipment had already been moved to other sites that experts had visited, it said.

Syria "has completed

More to do

Harder work still to come in Syria

Amy Smithson, a chemical weapons expert at the U.S. Monterey In-

stitute, cautioned that the work achieved so far had been relatively easy compared with the next stage, which will involve transporting and eliminating warfare agents.

Quoted

"This was a major milestone in the effort to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons program."

Ralf Trapp
chemical weapons specialist

the functional destruction of critical equipment for all of its declared chemical weapons production facilities and mixing/filling plants, rendering them inoperable," it said, meeting a Nov. 1 deadline for the work.

"Most of the sites and

facilities declared by Syria to the OPCW have been inspected, their inventories verified, equipment for chemical weapons production disabled and put beyond use, and some of the unfilled weapons have also been disabled," Ralf Trapp, an independent chemical weapons disarmament specialist, said.

Under a deal brokered by Russia and the United States, Damascus agreed to destroy all its chemical weapons after Washington threatened to use force in response to the killing of hundreds of people in a sarin attack on the outskirts of Damascus on Aug. 21.

REUTERS

Helping hand

Obamacare website to get assist from Google, Oracle

Experts from top technology and Internet companies, including Google Inc., Oracle Corp and Red Hat Inc.,

have joined the Obama administration's effort to fix its troubled HealthCare.gov website, a U.S. official said on Thursday.

Individuals from Oracle and Red Hat have expertise in site reliability, stability and scalability, according

to a blog post by Julie Bataille, spokeswoman for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, which is overseeing the effort. Michael Dickerson, a site reliability engineer on leave from Google, will be one person involved in the work.

REUTERS

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Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

FOREMAN IS A POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT
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CNN-POLITICS

HEALTH CARE'S
DARK HEART

Like travelers huddling on the deck of a steamer amid the night sounds, plying an unmapped river in search of a madman's lair, the denizens of your nation's capital are exchanging horror stories.

Listen to any congressional hearing on Obamacare (and trust me, there are plenty to choose from) and you'll hear tales of families swept into the abyss of financial ruin by calamitous diseases, driven into the gaping maw of bankruptcy by government intrusion or dragged into the shrieking jungle by an insurance adjuster-turned-cannibal. Each story begins the same way: "Why, I've heard from a person who says ..." and then it veers off into whatever narrative best fits the politics of the speaker.

Sometimes the stories are backed up with

Quoted

"Any good policy analyst will tell you to be wary of the horror stories on either side."

letters, emails or even a congressional staffer who offers to put you in touch with the suffering soul at their center. Occasionally, these stories even prove to be true. But true or false, left or right, they all serve the same purpose: They hide the fact that hard numbers are sorely lacking on both sides of this debate.

Think about it. If opponents of Obamacare had solid, undeniable numbers that proved the program would lead to disaster, don't you think we'd see those charts day after day, hour after hour? And if the White House was having up-

roarious success signing people into this program, don't you think we'd see a tote board emblazoned across the White House fairly shouting the impressive figures?

The thing is, Obamacare is so big, so earth-shaking in scope, and we are so early in the process of implementation, that no one seems to know precisely how it will play out. It's like approaching Kurtz's village — no one really knows what the future holds even if they are hoping for the best. But any good policy analyst will tell you to be wary of the horror stories on either side. The truth won't come in sentimental, partisan tales, but rather through hard numbers and real results. That's what will tell us if Obamacare is ultimately a work of genius or madness — or somewhere in between.

Alec Baldwin law

FAA to allow
electronic
devices

Airline passengers will soon be able to use electronic devices throughout their entire flight after the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration ended a long-standing ban on Thursday.

Mobile phone calls remain barred under Federal Communications Commission rules. But fliers will be free to keep smartphones, tablets and e-readers running in "airplane" mode.

Delta Air Lines and JetBlue quickly filed plans with the FAA to show that their aircraft can tolerate radio signals from electronic devices, a condition required by the regulator. The change is likely to boost the use of gadgets such as Amazon's Kindle or Apple's iPad.

REUTERS

Feeling fine

Poll: US not
aware violent
crime rising

Fewer Americans are aware that violent crime has been on the rise in the United States for the past few years, according to a Gallup poll published on Thursday.

The poll, conducted early this month, found 64 percent of Americans feel crime is increasing, down from 68 percent in 2011. That decline came despite the fact violent crimes including rape, robbery and assault rose by more than one-third from 2010 to 2012, according to federal data. **REUTERS**

By the numbers

41

Percent of people believe crime in their local area is on the decline as well, versus 51 percent in 2009

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2

CULTURE

'Alien eggs inside your brain'

Getting started. Author Douglas Coupland, who invented the term "Generation X" with his debut 1991 novel, is publishing his new novella right here in Metro. He lets you know what to expect in daily installments starting Monday.

In the next four weeks, you'll be reading the daily story of a very likeable character named Shannon. You already know Shannon — everyone knows Shannon. You may well be Shannon. She's that slightly geeky gal who temps at every office you've ever worked at. She's funny, she's got her head screwed on right and, most of all, Shannon lives in our collective real world. She lives in 2013, and her world is changing and mutating as rapidly as yours.

Change: that dreaded word. If only we could have a one-year holiday from change — but that's not going to happen and we know it. So then, how do we make the most of life as it's really lived? How do we cope and find the good stuff amid the bad stuff? That's what Shannon's all about.

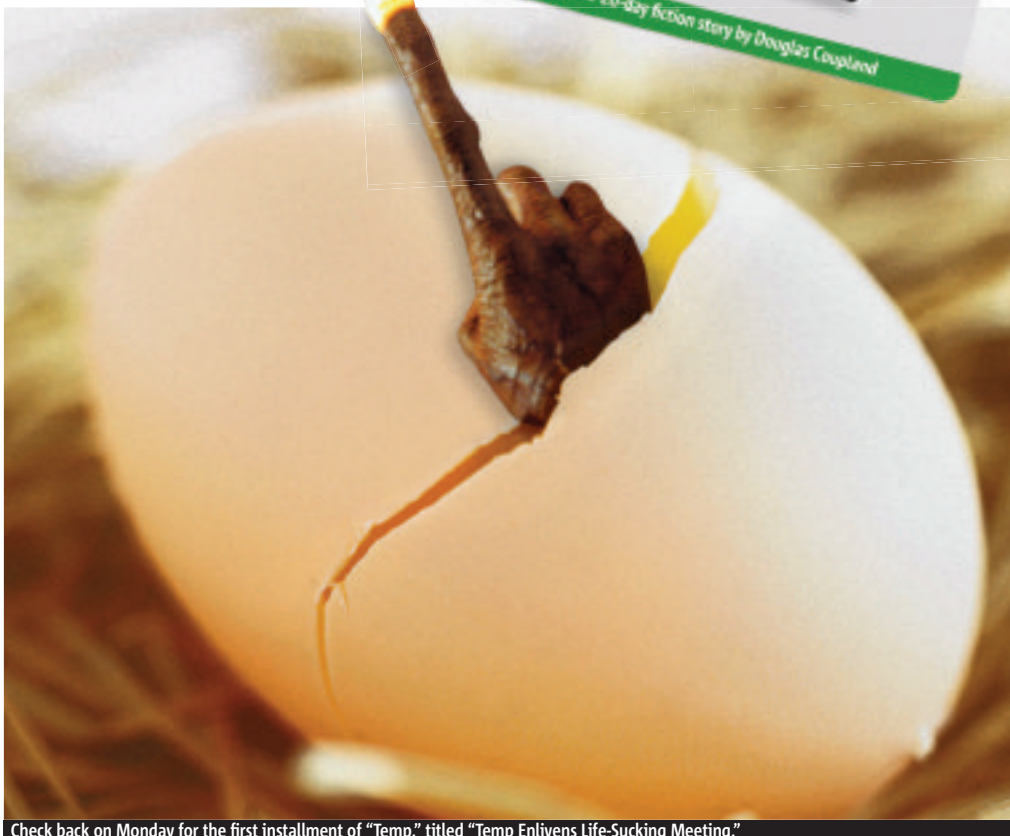
But wait. Why Metro? And why me writing about a character named Shannon in Metro? There are two reasons. One, I always set my books in what I call "the extreme present tense." As living creatures, the present moment is all we have. It's freaky and messy and weird, but it's ours and soon enough the present tense will become the "good old days" — so enjoy it.

Two, I'm no longer sure if fiction is keeping pace with life and how we live it. I'm a born experimenter and I want to try something new to address this lack. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: As a species, we've never been smarter yet we've never felt stupider. We live in a world of devices and clouds and economic bubbles. A traditional novel will always be central to human civilization, but I get the impression a new form of storytelling is being called for. I call it *dépêche* fiction: fast-changing fiction. (Yes, kind of like *Depeche Mode*, a band I totally like.)

About the author

Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland is a Canadian novelist, visual artist and designer. His first novel, published in 1991, was "Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture." He has published 13 novels, a collection of short stories, seven nonfiction books and a number of dramatic works and screenplays for film and television. Douglas Coupland's novels and visual work synthesize high and low culture, Web technology, religion and changes in human existence caused by modern technologies.



Check back on Monday for the first installment of "Temp," titled "Temp Enlivens Life-Sucking Meeting."

Introduction

A Metro first

Metro is pleased to announce an exclusive collaboration with celebrated author Douglas Coupland. His novella, "Temp," will be running each weekday from Nov. 4 to Nov. 29. Charlotte Empey, the editor-in-chief of Metro Canada who arranged the collaboration, says that "Temp," "explores what it means to be young, smart and only temporarily employed, through the eyes of a contemporary cast of characters just trying to carve a place for themselves in

an uncertain world."

When we reached out to the famed novelist about why he chose Metro to publish his work, he said, "Metro is the drum beat of the global village. It's the new face of old media. It reaches millions of people who devour every word and it all ends up being discussed in lunchrooms, meeting rooms and dinner tables around the world."

Be sure to read the first installment of "Temp" this Monday — in print and online at www.metro.us/douglascoupland.

Quoted

"A traditional novel will always be central to human civilization, but I get the impression a new form of storytelling is being called for. I call it *dépêche* fiction: fast-changing fiction."

Douglas Coupland

Dépêche fiction is a cappuccino hit. *Dépêche* fiction is a really awesome Russian dash-cam clip. *Dépêche* fiction is written so that it accumulates in your brain over time, and then, just like alien eggs, it suddenly hatches and makes your brain say, "Hey! I'm feeling something tingly and new! And BTW, I've overtaken your existence!"

What to expect? Well, it's not "The Office," and it's not a comic strip.

"Temp" is something new — and you get to be a part of the experiment. And Metro is the perfect slot for "Temp." Metro is read by people who are out there in the world living a full-on modern experience. Fiction is about readers being able to say, "Wait — that's how I see the world!" And I hope that's what you feel. And now let the eggs hatch.

Douglas Coupland
Vancouver, BC
November 1, 2013

Since getting Hollywood's attention — and an Oscar nomination — for "True Grit" in 2010, 16-year-old Hailee Steinfeld has kept some impressive momentum going. This fall, she debuted "Can a Song Save Your Life?" at the Toronto International Film Festival before seeing "Romeo and Juliet" hit theaters. Now she co-stars in the long-awaited film adaptation of the science-fiction novel "Ender's Game."

It's still early in your career, but you're making some great choices.

There's really been no specific method. I find that everything that I've done has been so different from the last, and I love that. But it's a process that involves my agents



GETTY IMAGES

HAILEE STEINFELD

For this actress, making "Ender's Game" was like training for battle.

GOING TO BOOT CAMP

and my parents, so there's a lot of filtering before it gets to me.

With "Ender's Game," some viewers seem to be looking for a love story between your character, Petra, and Ender (Asa Butterfield).

They don't have to fall in love to trust each other. And they're in Battle School. People aren't secretly going out — there's none of that happening. There's no place to go, there's nothing to do, you're under strict rules

and you're away from your family, so all you really want is a friend.

You make Battle School sound almost like a film set.

Yeah, totally! [Laughs] No, it's really interesting how that crossed over to our lives, being away from home and working however long each day. We were getting up at 7 a.m. for boot camp and all

that stuff, but we had a really good time. It's funny, when we talk about it we make it sound like it was so grueling and horrible and hard, but it was one of the best experiences I've ever had. I walked away with some of the guys being among my best friends.



NED EHRBAR
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Hitting the shelves

You're also doing a lot of adaptations.

Yes! Which again is not necessarily intentional, but really helpful. I always find it interesting when

some actors don't read the book [something is based on] — which is starting to make more sense to me given the fact that you're given a script to make a movie, and it may or may not have anything to do with the book. I remember

when I shot "True Grit," the fact that it was a book and had been done before was huge for me and it helped me so much. And then with "Romeo and Juliet" and "Ender's Game," it's just a couple hundred extra pages of knowledge.

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A sci-fi favorite keeps its smarts

"Ender's Game" author Orson Scott Card has spent much of his life railing against homosexuality, and he was gung ho for the Iraq War. Yet there's a line between the man and his work: Card's homophobia doesn't carry over to his most celebrated sci-fi novel, and it's at least skeptical of war, if not anti-war.

Set during a "Starship Troopers"-esque future, when mankind tussles with belligerent bug-like aliens, the plot asks hard questions about how inhumane military leaders must be to succeed while challenging war's effectiveness.

The movie stays close to its source: Ender ("Hugo") Asa Butterfield is a robotically calm brainiac, with a creepy psychotic streak. This is noticed by the gruff Graff (Harrison Ford), a



Harrison Ford, right, tries to build Asa Butterfield into a warrior in "Ender's Game." / RICHARD FOREMAN

colonel who thinks Ender is that overused sci-fi/fantasy concept "the one," and that he can be trained to defeat humanity's foe.

The film adaptation

streamlines and simplifies the novel. But it's still smart, and the simplification actually makes it a bit more effective. Where the book periodically wanders outside of the bubble that is Ender's training, the movie stays deep inside it. Ender gets friends, but no close ones, and even what seems like a requisite love interest ("True Grit"'s Hailee Steinfeld) winds up strictly platonic. Like him, we never see the world he's defending, or the enemy he's being trained to obliterate. War remains abstract.

Director Gavin Hood

Space movie.

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Review

'Ender's Game'

Director: Gavin Hood

Stars: Asa Butterfield, Harrison Ford

Rating: PG-13

• • • • •



MATT PRIGGE
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Alright, alright, alright

Drama. Matthew McConaughey's latest comeback vehicle is just so-so (though he's great).

A few years ago, Matthew McConaughey realized that his legacy was not as a master thespian, but as the star of dumb rom-coms. Since then he's switched to fulfilling his early potential, with swaggering turns in "Bernie," "Magic Mike" and "Killer Joe."

Indeed, you couldn't craft a more Oscar-friendly performance than the lead in "Dallas Buyers Club" if you tried. Playing Ron Woodruff, a real-life Texas homophobe who contracted AIDS in the early days of the crisis, McConaughey gets to reform from bigotry, fight a disease, lose a ton of weight and self-righteously yell at unhelp-

ful bureaucrats, "Erin Brockovich"-style, all the while rocking his charismatic McConaughey-ness.

To his credit, McConaughey doesn't shy away from Woodruff's dark sides. He's overly driven and prone to artlessly profane tantrums. It's a more nuanced performance than it may sometimes seem, especially once the film devolves into a tiresome parade of "showstoppers," with Woodruff angrily confronting one FDA stooge or heartless doctor after another, throwing around the word "murderer" with wild abandon. To the filmmakers he's a reckless hero who gets results — Dirty Harry with a bad 'stache who fights government agencies, not punks. Great central performance and all, it winds up reducing heady times into a slob versus snobs battle.



MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us



Matthew McConaughey plays a homophobe battling AIDS in "Dallas Buyers Club." / ANNE MARIE FOX

Review

'Dallas Buyers Club'

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée

Stars: Jared Leto, Matthew McConaughey

Rating: R



Old person comedy. Get ready for lots and lots of Viagra jokes

Review

'Last Vegas'

Director: Jon Turteltaub

Stars: Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro

Rating: PG-13



The four stars of "Last Vegas" — Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline — have little left to prove, except that they can do a super-light, not very imaginative comedy that is fathoms beneath their talents. The quartet play lifelong friends who go to Douglas' bachelor party.

The loose and lived-in camaraderie between the leads — who've, amazingly, never worked together — helps. Like "Hope Springs," it's crap as comedy but surprisingly,

covertly trenchant as a look at the unflattering, under-discussed aspects of getting old. **MATT PRIGGE**



Four acting greats take a time-out in "Last Vegas" for some much-needed scotch. / CHUCK ZLOTNICK

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Meek Mill: He's 'Young & Gettin' It'

Hip-hop. The Philly native is part of Powerhouse 2013's all-star lineup.

Following Meek Mill on Twitter recently has been a wild ride.

Not long ago, Mill's handle was abuzz with photos of the rapper and Nicki Minaj joyriding on four-wheelers. To the casual TMZ fan, that meant the two were hot and heavy. Turns out, they were just collaborating on a new music video for the track "I Be On That," featuring Minaj, Fabolous and French Montana off Mill's latest mixtape, "Dreamchasers 3."

"We just wanted to get crazy on some four-wheelers," Mill says, "and have some fun at the same time. I credit that to my director, Wonton Soup."

What?
"Yeah, Wonton Soup, that's his name."

That Mill would work with somebody who goes by the name of Wonton Soup shouldn't be a surprise. Mill has been at the forefront of experimental music, going back to his "Bloundhoundz" days. He's



The rapper likes the experimentation that a mixtape allows.

See more at www.metro.us

unleashed a plethora of mixtapes (versus just one studio-produced album), and that's not a fluke. He says mixtapes provide a better canvas for the true artist.

"Yeah, they're experimental or different, I guess," he says. "It's not the championship album. It's more like a late regular-season game, or a playoff game or a semifinal game in the tournament."

That doesn't mean that Mill doesn't want to ride the throne. His lone studio album, "Dreams and Nightmares," took the top spot on Billboard's rap albums chart when it was released

last October.

"Of course we have plans [for another studio album]," Mill says. "It's very important to keep my fans engaged. I'm working on it daily for my fans."



MICHAEL GREGER
michael.greger@metro.us



J. Roddy and Co. just want you to dance, damn it! / PROVIDED

J's Boogie. Getting down to Business

J. Roddy Walston & The Business would like to see more people dancing when they play. The Baltimore-formed quartet creates the kind of raucous boogie that makes it hard to stand still, yet that's just what their audiences do, mostly.

"They stand there with their arms folded looking serious," says Watson.

Perhaps the band's raw, wild third album, "Essential Tremors," will get toes tapping to its rock 'n' roll, Stax soul and T. Rex

boogie stew. The record is named for Walston's nervous-system disorder, which causes his hands to shake. The irony does not escape him.

"Something we've been talking about a lot is the power of moving to music," he says. "When rock 'n' roll started, people instinctively knew how to move, when to clap together, and to scream."

He hopes this latest effort will invoke that spirit.

LINDA LABAN

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Quoted

"The record explores the idea of putting something out there rather than holding it as a secret that keeps you down." Walston

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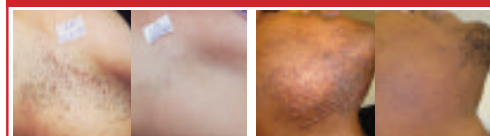
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Talking points



Fassbender doesn't own mirrors, apparently

Michael Fassbender apparently hasn't been keeping up with popular opinion, because he doesn't think he's all that attractive. "I've never really thought of myself as good-looking. I think of myself as, you know, all right," he tells the U.K. edition of Elle magazine. "I used to have bad acne as a teenager, so all of this is a bonus now, the fact that I don't have pimples anymore. And my hair was also, you know, unfortunate."



Clooney puts rumors to rest

George Clooney isn't the lady-killer the press is making him out to be, he insists. He's been linked recently to Katie Holmes, model Monika Jakisic and attorney Amal Alamuddin, but insists he's been going home alone. "Three different stories in three weeks. I should be an athlete," he jokes to People magazine. "But of course it's all made up." His rep, Stan Rosenfield, is much less jovial: "George wants this Monika crap to stop," he tells the magazine. "He wants Katie to get a break and Amal to prosecute cases without being hassled because she had dinner with George. He never comments on his private life, but in the interest of stopping the harassment, he felt he should."

Talk show hosts do Halloween



From left: Al Roker poses with Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb. / SLAVEN VLASIC, GETTY IMAGES

After they canceled "Judge Joe Brown," I thought I'd never watch morning TV again. That is, until Halloween, when the various morning talk show crews dress up like the serious journalists they are.

On "Today," Al Roker rocked Mr. T while Kathie Lee and Hoda went as Betty Rubble and Wilma Flintstone. But it was Matt Lauer who really outdid himself as Pamela Anderson in "Baywatch." Luckily, Carmen Electra was also there in her famed one-piece to help cleanse viewers' eyeballs.

"This year I decided to go as something really scary: half naked," Ellen DeGeneres told viewers in her Nicki Minaj getup. Over at "LIVE with Kelly and Michael," Kelly Ripa



Ellen DeGeneres
PROVIDED

and Michael Strahan fell for the "Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke" cliché. You can do better, guys! I mean, look at Matt Lauer: That's Halloween commitment.



CARMEN ELECTRA

SLAVEN VLASIC, GETTY IMAGES

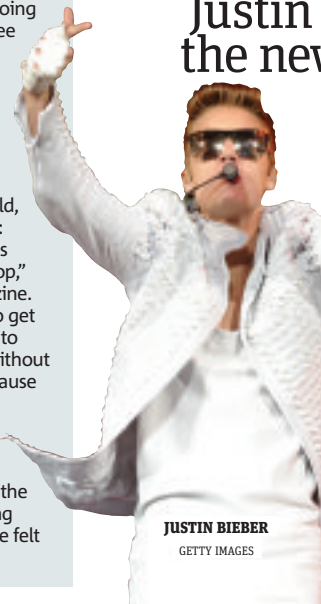


Matt Lauer takes on an oldie. / SLAVEN VLASIC, GETTY IMAGES



Kelly Ripa is a pair with Michael Strahan. / ROB KIM, GETTY IMAGES

Justin Bieber is the new Banksy



JUSTIN BIEBER
GETTY IMAGES

Justin Bieber continues to show off his punk side by taking up graffiti.

The pop star posted photos to Instagram of himself engaged in his "new hobby," spraying city walls with crude cartoons and messages. In one, he's seen writing, "R.I.P. Pac," though it's unclear if he's honoring Tupac Shakur or his late hamster, named after the late rapper.

Between this, spitting on his neighbors, peeing in a bucket and the cops finding pot on his tour bus, he'd be public enemy No. 1 if it were 1993.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

@dorothyatmetro
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Jonas finds heroin rumors 'hilarious'

Joe Jonas is fighting off rumors that drug problems may have contributed to the breakup of his band, the Jonas Brothers. "It's obviously not true. I've never touched heroin in my life," he tells People magazine. "It's hilarious to me, but also frustrating as well. I was walking down the street and people are asking me if they can give me a hug and how rehab is. I'm like, 'You tell me, because I've never been.'"



Horoscope

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Mix business with pleasure. Setting up interviews will lead to prosperity. Give a friendly nudge to someone if it will get you ahead.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Call in favors and discuss plans that include adventure. You will obtain valuable information and firm up future plans.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. You will master something that you've been working on. Expect to receive the go-ahead for a project. Travel will lead to unexpected delays.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Listen to what people are telling you and follow rules. With a couple of last-minute changes, you will please someone who is counting on you.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Don't stop or look back. Take what you know and make it work for you. Your uncanny timing will make others take note.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Erratic behavior and emotional outbursts can be expected if you fail to rein in your spending. Beware of extravagance.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Do whatever it takes to improve an important relationship. Taking a small vacation will help. Focus on small things.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Do something that interests you today. Meeting people and sharing stories and ideas will give you a boost and help you turn an uncertain situation around.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Socialize and plan to do something exciting. Taking part in a new experience will bring you joy and encourage you to take action.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. You should pay attention to romance, love and domestic harmony today. A change may be required.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Take a trip to a place that inspires you. Mingling with people you can learn from will lead to an interesting destination.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You may have to give up one thing in order to get another. Base your decision on end results, not immediate gratification. A new look will attract compliments. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Sudoku: Easy and hard

6	9	7	2					
2					9		4	
1				3		9		2
	6	1	4			8		
		8			5	2	6	
7		3		4				9
	2		1					6
					3	7	8	5

	7		9					
9		3			2		1	
		5			7		2	
		1	2	4		3		
3			6	7			4	
	8		3	5	9			
5		8			2			
	2		1		3		6	
				8		7		

How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

- 1 El —, Texas
- 5 Tree anchor
- 9 Reassure
- 13 Piggy's dinner
- 14 Dawns, in verse
- 15 Tibet's setting
- 16 Vault
- 17 Make blush
- 18 Kind of caterpillar
- 19 Coronets
- 21 Aloha token
- 22 Quaff with sushi
- 23 Orbit segments
- 25 Take a header
- 27 Sings with gusto (2 wds.)
- 31 Walks heavily
- 35 Go on the lam
- 36 Deadlocked
- 38 Be in store for
- 39 Captain's journal
- 40 Overly dignified
- 42 Above, poetically
- 43 Lickety-split
- 46 Ocean flier
- 47 1977 whale movie
- 48 Money handler
- 50 Working
- 52 Holly, to a botanist
- 54 Embraced
- 55 Vogue rival
- 58 Daffodil digs
- 60 Grow canines?

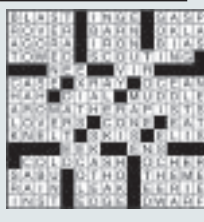
- 64 Pork selection
- 65 Hitch —
- 67 Reddish-brown
- 68 Owl call
- 69 Heavy reading?
- 70 Type of dollar
- 71 Quaint lodgings
- 72 Board mem.
- 73 Took a card

Down

- 1 Furtive whisper
- 2 Jai —
- 3 Davenport
- 4 Wield a scalpel
- 5 Stick up
- 6 Ph.D. exam
- 7 Commencement
- 8 Jeans go-with (hyph.)
- 9 Unwitting tool (hyph.)
- 10 Between ports
- 11 Kind of sausage
- 12 Jane, to Tarzan
- 14 Army's mule et al.
- 20 "— Gratia Artis"
- 24 Hotel offering
- 26 Rollover subj.
- 27 Musical key (2 wds.)
- 28 Split to join
- 29 Not prohibited
- 30 Gets misty-eyed
- 32 Kiwi language

- 33 Jigsaw component
- 34 Famed viol.
- 37 Ms. Washington of blues
- 41 Strikes out
- 44 Customers
- 45 Underwater shocker
- 47 Sent for
- 49 Discount
- 51 Malt beverage
- 53 Big name in copiers
- 55 Grades 1-12
- 56 Raucous diver
- 57 Veld prowler
- 59 Thinnest coin
- 61 — de force
- 62 Long-eared animal
- 63 Rubaiyat rhymers
- 66 Winter mo.

Thursday's answer



Letters

Not everyone has 20 percent ready to go

Re: 'Expert tips for new homebuyers' (Metro, Oct. 16) Gary Malin appears to be talking to the wealthy only. Those tips are for the homebuyers who have the 20 percent or more to put down on a home.

This expert's advice is missing what happens when you do not have 20 percent down and you are charged with a PMI fee, there can be a couple hundred dollars or more added to your mortgage for years.

Try and re-mortgage at a lower rate. It starts all over again. The mortgage company or banks — and whatever else — are making millions from homeowners. You cannot even get the PMI charge canceled if you NEVER miss a payment on your mortgage. They can dismiss this charge if they want, but won't.

LORRAINE MORSE, VIA EMAIL

The nanny is always watching

Re: 'Scary Halloween candy' (Metro, Oct. 30) On the day before Halloween, did you really need to run a story on how unhealthy candy is? Who wrote it for you — Mike Bloomberg?

BRUCE A. BENNETT, VIA EMAIL

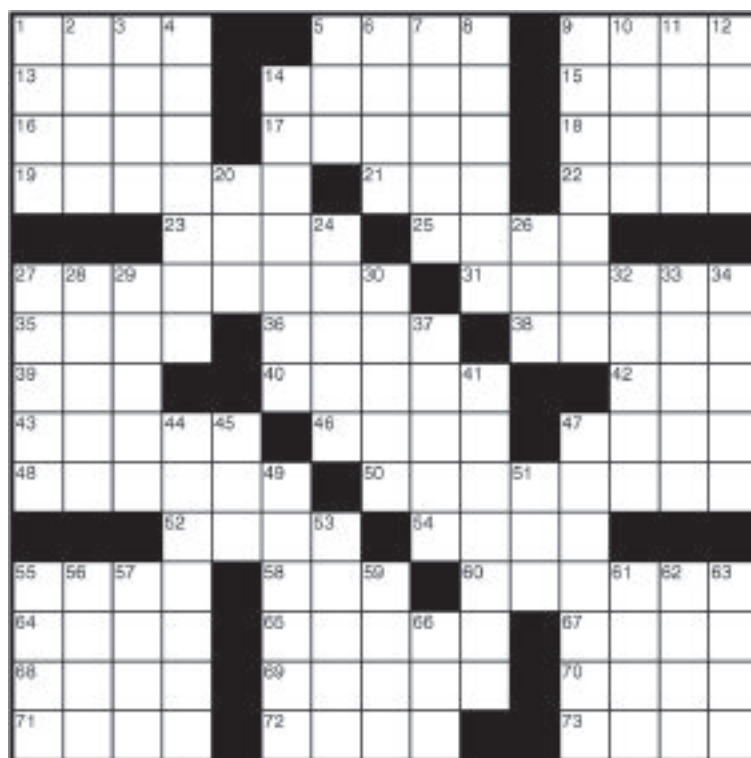
Keep traffic jams inside the Beltway, Obama

If every time President Obama comes to town it means inconveniencing thousands of people in downtown, during their commute, then from now on he should stay in D.C.

HOCHY LORA, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.



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3

SPORTS

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Jets host high-flying Saints

NFL. Drew Brees, Jimmy Graham and the Saints bring their offensive attack to the Meadowlands.

For a Jets team alternating wins all season, this week would be a good time to keep up that trend.

The 6-1 Saints are coming off a dismantling of the Bills last week. Drew Brees is yet again on pace to throw for over 5,000 yards while tight end Jimmy Graham could have over 1,200 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns.

Metro looks at three stories to watch as the Jets take on the Saints this Sunday (1 p.m., FOX):

1 Milliner's matchup

Even Jets fans can be forgiven for rushing to pick up Lance Moore



Lance Moore and the Saints offense danced all over the Buffalo secondary last week in a 35-17 victory. / GETTY IMAGES

or Kenny Stills for your fantasy team. Head coach Rex Ryan has already said rookie cornerback and wide receiver punching bag Dee Milliner will be starting on Sunday. Stills, also a rookie, had a breakout game last week with 129 yards and two touchdowns.

Milliner was benched after allowing four scores to Cincinnati's Marvin Jones last week. The news isn't much better on the other side, where Antonio Cromartie is having a bad season and will match up with former Hofstra receiver Marques Colston.

2 Evil twin

It may not have much impact on the outcome of the game — with both being defensive masterminds — but it should be fun to watch twin brothers Rex and Rob Ryan go against each other. Rob is the defensive coordinator for the Saints

and had been doing a wonderful job in his first season in New Orleans. But his defense looked completely out of sorts in a meltdown at New England on Oct. 13. Jets quarterback Geno Smith should be plenty familiar with Rob's defensive style though.

3 Bye week blues

This weekend's game will be the last one before the bye week for the Jets. A winning record, with quality victories over New England and New Orleans would be very impressive for a team picked to finish at the bottom of the league. The other good news is the team faces very few quality teams in the second half of the year. The combined record of their remaining opponents are 17-25 and only Carolina has a winning mark.



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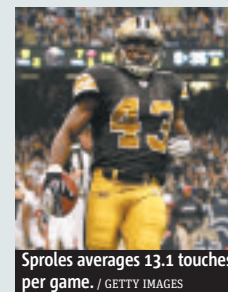
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All-around attack

Versatile Sproles poses unique issues

There may be more talented players in the NFL, but there are few more versatile than Saints back Darren Sproles.

Not only is Sproles the Saints' second-leading receiver and third-leading rusher, he's also a threat in the return game. He's



Sproles averages 13.1 touches per game. / GETTY IMAGES

averaging 21.2 yards per kick return — seventh in the NFC.

When Sproles is coming out of the backfield on Sunday, he'll usually be the responsibility of one of the team's outside linebackers, like veteran Calvin Pace.

"He's a big play waiting to happen. I think he poses so many challenges," Pace said. "They can obviously hand the ball off to him but he can get out on routes. He's very dangerous in space." **MARK OSBORNE**

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It's a chance to stop, smell the roses and look back at what has happened. Some midway awards:

Michael Jordan Memorial Award (MVP). It's really hard for a quarterback to be fantasy's most valuable player, but Peyton Manning has



Trent Richardson has been a colossal bust since being traded to the Colts. / GETTY IMAGES

been completely absurd.

He has 49 more fantasy points than any other QB. He has more fantasy points than Tom Brady and Robert Griffin III combined. He's on pace to shatter Drew Brees' single-season record for passing yards and is averaging 3.6 touchdown passes per game.

If you own Manning and aren't at least 6-2, you should consider submitting fantasy retirement papers.

Victor Cruz Memorial Award (Waiver Add). In the offseason and training camp, it looked like a two-headed battle between Montee Ball and Ronnie Hillman for the Broncos' starting job.

But on the Sunday morning of Week 1, word leaked out that Knowshon Moreno came out of nowhere and

would start. Owners that were on that news and scooped him up have fantasy's No. 2 back and a guy on pace for 19 touchdowns. Early bird gets the worm again.

Ryan Mathews Memorial Award (Bust). There are a ton of candidates this year as more first- and second-round running backs than usual have choked.

C.J. Spiller has been a bust (although he makes a great buy low), David Wilson was brutal before going down and Doug Martin was atrocious prior to his labrum tear.

But, the award goes to Trent Richardson because he's been fully healthy and hasn't performed. In fact, he's gotten outplayed by Donald Brown since he got traded to the Colts. That's humiliating.

NFL pickups

Keep these names in mind if you are looking to tweak your fantasy football roster.

- **Jake Locker, QB, Titans** — Combine rapidly improving play, athletic legs and a cake schedule to get a solid top-15 QB the rest of the way.
- **Tim Wright, TE, Bucs** — Mike Williams' season-ending hamstring will open more looks for this converted Rutgers wide receiver.

- **Andre Brown, RB, Giants** — David Wilson (neck) might be done and Brandon Jacobs and Peyton Hillis can't move. Brown will be back from a fractured leg in Week 10.

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Home opener

Nets host defending champions

The hype was there in the preseason for the Nets and the Heat.

There were a few hard fouls, criticism by LeBron James about certain players "leaving Boston" and a response by Kevin Garnett telling the game's best player to "mind his business."

The real deal comes

Friday night for the Nets, who have dropped 13 straight to the Heat, 17 straight to James and nine in a row against James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

Head coach Jason Kidd, who will not coach the team due to a DWI suspension, shrugged off the game holding any kind of extra importance, even after a disappointing season-opening loss.

"It's game two," Kidd

said after Thursday's light practice. "So if you're saying game two is a statement game, then you're missing the process. So this is a marathon, a journey, and we have a long ways to go. It just happens that we're playing the Heat tomorrow to find a way to get a win and to protect home. So you've got the world champs in, we've got our hands full."

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